peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control such as prior notification of military exercises, prevention of air intrusions and redeployment of forces along the line of actual control. Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the steady and perceptible improvement in bilateral ties. It was agreed in principle to open an additional border trade point at Shipkila Pass. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest. It was also decided to hold the next meeting of the Joint Working Group in Beijing in early 1994.

(c) and (d) Confidence building measures already agreed to between India and China such as exchanges between the defence establishments of the two countries, meetings of border commanders, and establishment of direct telephone links at the border have helped in maintaining peace and tranquillity all along the line of actual control and have enhanced mutual trust and confidence.

Suspension of US Aid

1077. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the reported move in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US Congress to suspend US aid worth $ 40 Million, linking to the socalled Human rights record of India and demanding repeal of the five preventive detention laws in force in India, TADA, NSA, J&K Public Safety Act;

(b) what was the Government's reaction; and

(c) what steps have been taken to dispel the wrong and falacious opinion amongst American people about the situation in J&K and Punjab and to enlighten the US Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government constantly monitor such developments in the US Congress. Our Ambassador in Washington as well as other Embassy officials are in constant touch with a large number of Congressmen from both political parties and also leading opinion makers in the US in order to put matters in a correct perspective. They also maintain regular interaction with the US Government at all levels. The Indian-American community has also been requested to reach out and write to their representatives on these issues. Government's efforts in this regard are of a continuous ongoing character.

Indo-US Differences on J&K Issue

1078. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are differences in policies and perceptions of the Government of USA and the Government of India on Jammu and Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, what are the points of such differences;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to sort out the differences in question since December 1991; and

(d) what is the outcome thereof?

OF STATE IN THE
RNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US Government regards Kashmir as disputed territory on both sides of the LOC. The US favours a peaceful settlement of the problem between India and Pakistan taking into account the views of the Kashmiris themselves. The US has expressed willingness to help in this process provided this is desired by both India and Pakistan. The US has also urged that India take steps to curb the abuses by its security forces, making them strictly accountable for their actions.

Government have consistently maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and that the extraordinary situation there has to be seen in the context of Pakistan's continuing support to terrorism. Government have emphasised that India's commitment to human rights is second to none. India is an open society with adequate constitutional, administrative and legal safeguards for the protection of human rights.

(c) and (d) In official discussions between India and the US both sides have stated their respective positions.

Supply of Cryogenic Missile Technology to India

1079. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minis-